



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
 (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

Rec'd

TO 1st MAY 2004

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P203-0469WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP 03 / 15274	International filing date (day/month/year) 28.11.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.11.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int.Cl. G06F12/00, G06F13/00, G06F15/00			
Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. a total of _____ sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 28.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 28.12.2004	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP Japan Patent Office 3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan	Authorized officer Shigeyuki Sakurai	5N 2945
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP 03 / 15274

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
- international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages _____ as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (specify): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, Nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (specify): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>3-11, 13, 17, 20-28, 30, 34</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-2, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 29, 31-33, 35-36</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>3-11, 13, 17, 20-28, 30, 34</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-2, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 29, 31-33, 35-36</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-36</u>	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

D1 : JP 11-219309 A (Ricoh Company, Ltd.)

1999.08.10, whole document

D2 : JP 5-334161 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.)

1993.12.17, Paragraphs [0026]-[0028], Figs 6-7

D3 : JP 10-111825 A (Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co., Ltd.)

1998.04.28, Paragraph [0019], Fig. 8

Claims 1-2, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 29, 31-33, 35-36

The subject matter of Claims 1-2, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 29, 31-33, 35-36 does not meet the requirement of novelty.

Claims 1-2, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 29, 31-33, 35-36 relate to "maintaining consistency of shared data, comprising: an output step of outputting request information: a reception step of receiving the request information and response information: a manipulation execution step", "manipulation execution step includes a step of executing only after the corresponding response information is received" (wait mode), and "manipulation execution step includes a step of executing the manipulation request without waiting for reception of that response information" (immediate mode).

And D1, especially paragraphs [0050]-[0115] and Figs 2, 8, discloses Level A transaction (having strong consistency, equal to wait mode) and Level C transaction (having weak consistency, equal to immediate mode).

Also D2, especially paragraphs [0026]-[0028] and Figs 6-7 discloses wait mode transaction (having strong consistency).

Therefore claims 1-2, 12, 14-16, 18-19, 29, 31-33, 35-36 appear to be known from D1, D2.

Claims 3-11, 13, 17, 20-28, 30, 34

None of the prior art documents cited in the ISR describes "manipulation execution step includes a step of executing the manipulation request, when a predetermined period of time elapses after generation of the manipulation request before reception of the corresponding response information" (delay mode).

Therefore the subject matter of claims 3-11, 13, 17, 20-28, 30, 34 is neither disclosed in any of the documents cited in the ISR nor obvious to a person skilled in the art.